

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the Specification as follows:

On Page 1, above line 1, please insert the following paragraphs:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Applicant claims priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 of German Patent Application No. 103 25 917.1 filed June 7, 2003. Applicant also claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §365 of PCT/DE2004/001151 filed June 7, 2004.

Page 1, amend the first paragraph to read as follows: --

The invention relates to a piston for an internal combustion engine in accordance with the preamble of claim 1, and a method for its production, in accordance with the preamble of claim ~~3~~ 2.

Same page, lines 4-13, change this paragraph to read as follows: --

A piston is known from the *Offenlegungsschrift* DE 199 22 809 A1, having pin bosses molded onto a cylindrically configured upper region of the piston, which are recessed as compared with the edge of the upper region, so that when the piston is cast, recesses can be formed in the underside of the overhang formed thereby, close to the pin bosses. For this purpose, a casting mold is used that contains a pivoting window insert having one casting core per recess, but this can only produce those recesses from which the casting core can easily be pulled out after casting. This has the disadvantage that in this way, the weight of the upper region of the piston cannot be reduced to such an extent that the center of gravity of the piston can be displaced as far as possible into the lower region of the piston, to achieve problem-free engine operation. --

After line 13, insert the following new paragraphs: --

It is known from *Offenlegungsschrift* DE 101 42 980 A1 to set a mold body onto a casting tool that can be displaced at a slant to the piston axis, which can be used to produce a recess under the head of the piston, behind its ring field, when the piston is cast, which recess has a nose-shaped undercut that points in the direction of the piston axis. After the piston is cast, the casting tool is pulled away from the piston, towards the bottom,

at a slant, whereby the mold body remains in the piston for a short time, before it is washed out.

It is a disadvantage in this connection that a very complicated mechanism is required to hold the casting tool precisely in the intended position during casting of the piston, and to move it away from the piston at a downward slant after casting, to pull it out of the mold body. Furthermore, the mold part known from the state of the art does not have any indentations that allow production of ribs in the recess, and this brings with it the additional disadvantage that the piston known from the last prior art reference has only a low mechanical strength.

A piston having a combustion chamber bowl in the piston head is known from the European patent application EP 0 364 810 A2, the underside of which is connected with pin bosses by way of ridges. In the region of the piston head and radially outward, the piston furthermore has a recess that is open downward, in the form of a cooling channel, the radially inner region of which is divided by the ridges. However, since the ridges do not reach to the belt that delimits the recess radially on the outside, there is the disadvantage that the mechanical strength of the region on the piston head side of the piston known from the EP application is very low.

Proceeding from this, the invention is based on the task of avoiding the disadvantages of the cited prior art. This task is accomplished with the characteristics found in the characterizing parts of the main claim and of the ancillary claim. A practical embodiment of the invention is the object of the dependent claim.--

Page 1, line 14, to page 2, line 6, cancel the paragraphs in their entirety ("Proceeding from ...dependent claims").